

# Brain Donation is Urgently Needed

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## Three Reasons Why:

1

Diagnoses of autism and dementia are rising at alarming rates, addiction is a tragic epidemic and serious mental illness is crushing our families.

2

Our chances of developing a brain disorder increase with age—and Americans are living longer than ever. It's easy to see where this is leading.

3

Donated brain tissue for neurologic study is critically needed to identify treatments and cures for all kinds of brain disease.



The Brain Donor Project serves as a single point of contact for the brain banks in the NIH's NeuroBioBank. Future donors are connected to the appropriate brain bank after completion of a simple online form at [braindonorproject.org](http://braindonorproject.org)

The work to solve complex brain disorders has progressed rapidly in the last 20–30 years as scientists identified the genomic foundations of many diseases.

Breakthroughs are closer than ever now, but scientists simply cannot get there without an adequate supply of human brain tissue. In late 2013, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) established the NeuroBioBank (NBB) to provide researchers with high quality, well-characterized human brain tissue for their investigations. This precious inventory is stored at a network of brain banks that are contracted to retrieve, prepare for lab use, store and distribute donated brain tissue for neurologic research.

Demand for tissues from donors with certain disorders, from specific brain regions, or even non-diseased tissues from so-called "control" brains can quickly deplete these valuable reserves—putting life-saving research in jeopardy. Low supplies will slow progress.

## How it works:



Visit [BrainDonorProject.org](http://BrainDonorProject.org)



Learn more about brain donation



Pre-register to donate your brain



Receive registration and consent forms



Complete and return to your brain bank

### AFTER DEATH



Notify your brain bank upon death



Brain bank coordinates transportation



Removal and recovery of the brain



Release of the body to family



Report of neuropathological findings

# Why Donate Your Brain?

## Why Donate

### What you might not know:

- Agreeing to be an organ donor does not mean your brain will be donated for neurologic research. Separate arrangements need to be made.
- Anatomical body donation does not mean your brain will be used for neurologic research. Again, separate arrangements must be made.
- Diseased brains are not the only ones needed. So-called “control brains” are necessary in every single study.
- Donating your brain is not disfiguring. An open casket is still an option.
- There’s no cost to donating your brain to an NIH/ NBB brain bank.

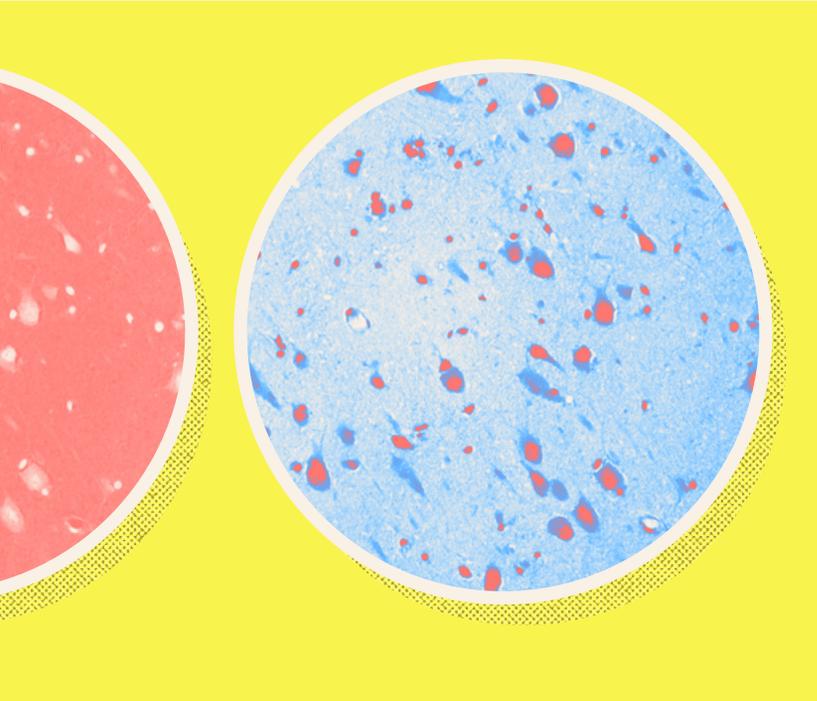
### Because science needs you

Someone in your circle is among the more than 50 million Americans suffering from a neurologic disease or disorder. Add in their families who struggle to help. Consider that the total number of those impacted will escalate since Americans are living longer and with age comes a greater chance of being diagnosed. The devastating impact of brain disease—Autism Spectrum Disorder, Parkinson’s Disease, addiction, mental illness, traumatic brain injury and many more—is only getting worse.



### Benefits to brain donation:

- 1** It may sound corny, but there’s a real sense of comfort in donating a brain to advance science. Since one brain can provide tissue for dozens—sometimes hundreds—of neurological studies, an individual brain donation is a highly valuable gift that almost anyone can make. In the face of a great loss, knowing that some future family may not have to suffer because of your donation can be extremely meaningful.
- 2** If requested, the family can receive a copy of the report called a Summary of Neuropathological Findings. In certain neurologic conditions, this is the only definitive diagnosis that can be made.



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